

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Cambridge, Massachusetts, showing a dense urban area with many buildings and trees displaying vibrant autumn colors of yellow, orange, and red. A large river, the Charles River, flows through the city, with several bridges crossing it. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Climate Working Group

Meeting #1

Agenda

September 1, 6-8 pm

- Welcome and introduction (20 minutes)
- Overview: setting the stage for the CCWG (20 minutes)
 - why is this work happening now?
 - What work has been done already?
 - What is our goal and how will we meet it?
- Discussion (60 minutes)
- Next steps (10 minutes)

Introductions!

- Mayor Siddiqui
- Councillor Nolan
- Audrey Shulman
- Ben Hellerstein
- Carol Lee Rawn
- Connor Rockett
- Cynthia Hibbard
- Daniel Mascoop
- Dr. Gaurab Basu
- Justin de Benedictis-Kessner
- Lyn Huckabee
- Malcolm Bliss
- Margery Davies
- Michael Scarlett
- Susanne Rasmussen & Seth Federspiel

Facilitator - for today Patty & Michael

Please include your name, pronouns, the focus of your climate work and your motivation for being here

What are we going to accomplish?

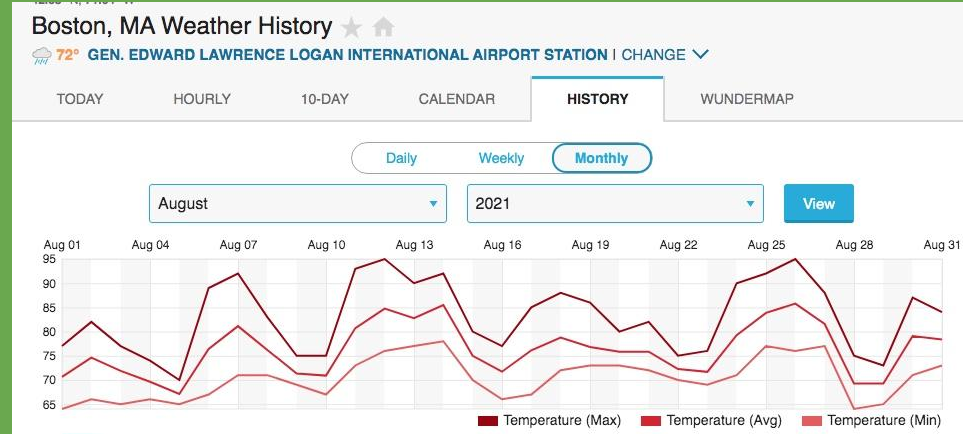
The purpose of the Mayor's Climate Working Group is to bring together climate leaders to determine what immediate actions the City &/or The City Council can take for Cambridge to reduce emissions and be a climate leader. The city has been working hard and failed to meet goals - we need to work smarter.

Yes it's an emergency

1. The climate crisis is here, and worsening with each day, week, month, and year
2. Cambridge climate goals are too weak, AND we're not meeting them
3. Mass. Climate Roadmap Bill demands faster progress
4. Other municipalities are surpassing us



Bishop Allen Drive



Massachusetts' 2030 statewide emissions goal

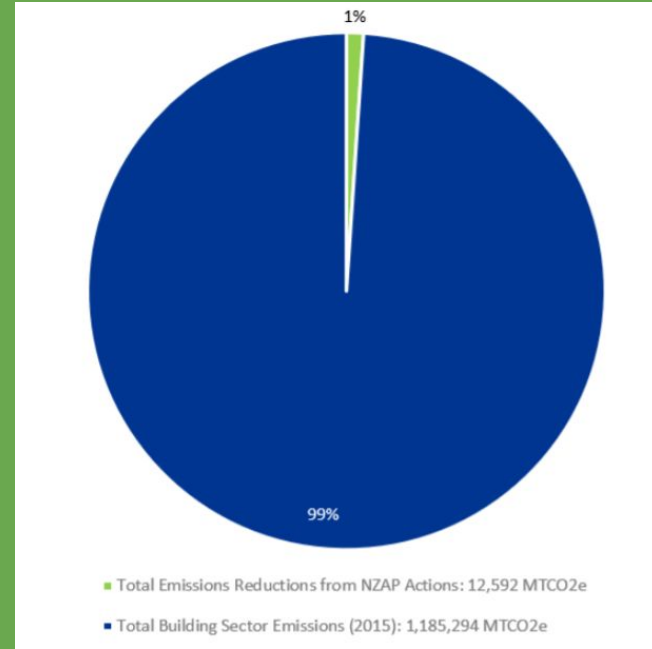
The climate roadmap Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 includes a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit of 50% below the 1990 GHG emissions level for the year 2030.

Cambridge emissions:

- 1.16 million tons CO₂ in 1990
- 1.46 million metric tons in 2012 and no lower in 2019
- ⇒ to do what the state law mandates, our GHG emissions must equal .58 million tons by 2030 which is **a 60% reduction from today**.
- Shouldn't Cambridge EXCEED the state law and be a climate leader?
 - Should Net zero by 2040 be the goal?

Results from NZAP Impact Evaluation Report

“...over the next 10 years, emissions need to be reduced 240,000 – 290,000 MTCO₂e just to align with the 2°C Paris Agreement limit—***an almost 20x increase over the initial five-year period.*** The city needs to remain aggressive in its approach and find additional ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions. ***The next five-year period will be critical.*** If the current trend continues and emissions remain flat, meeting the targets set by the Paris Agreement for 2030 will become much more difficult, and significant adjustments in strategy will be needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.”



**“The next five-year period
will be critical.”**

- NZAP 5 year review conclusion

And it's really 4 years from now - the report is December 2020

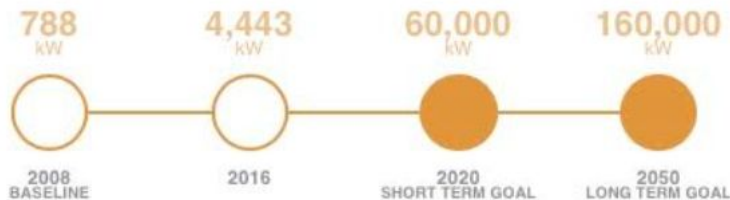
How are we going to achieve our goals?

- First, we set and state Goals
- Second, we change the culture to one of intensive focus on results, honesty about outcomes and holding ourselves accountable

From city's Sustainability dashboard early 2020:

Goals for installed solarand community GHG emissions

Our Data & Goals



Our Data & Goals



How to achieve goals: start with transparency.

- Cambridge used to have some specific public climate goals - yet when it was pointed out we failed to meet some goals, they were erased from the website. Literally - see below. If we are going to meet our goals in the future, we will only be able to do so by changing our approach:
 - Publicly set goals, measure progress, adjust if necessary

From city's Sustainability dashboard late 2020

Our Data & Goals



Goals were
disappeared

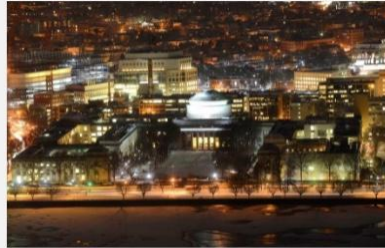
Our Data & Goals



NO Goals except net-zero by 2050 - a state mandate

No specific goals, no specific measures, old data. Less information than prior dashboard.

“If you don’t know where you’re going, any road gets you there.”



Community GHG Emissions

Our Goals

Cambridge has established a goal to have net-zero GHG emissions community-wide by 2050.

The City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for 2012 will serve as a baseline for measuring progress on our emissions reduction goals.

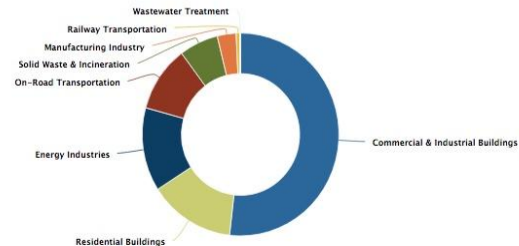
UNIT	Greenhouse gases (GHGs) have a natural heat trapping capacity which varies by gas. Humans produce more carbon dioxide (CO ₂) than any other GHG. We count emissions of GHGs based on how each GHG's heat trapping capacity compares to CO ₂ s. This is called the "CO ₂ equivalent" (CO ₂ e). We measure GHGs in metric tons of CO ₂ e (MTCO ₂ e).
MTCO ₂ e	
Metric Tons Carbon Dioxide Equivalent	



Community GHG Emissions

2012 Community GHG Emissions by Sector

As with municipal GHG emissions, buildings are the largest sector of community GHG emissions, with commercial and institutional buildings accounting for more than half of all community emissions. This is followed by residential buildings and then energy industries, which are the generation facilities that provide electricity and heat for the commercial and institutional properties. On-road transportation, which includes all the cars, trucks, and buses that travel on our streets, represents 10.5% of the City's GHG emissions.



Change needed: Set specific goals e.g. solar citywide

When goals are not met, ask why. Learn. Acknowledge. Adjust. Don't change the goalposts. Change in culture is necessary.

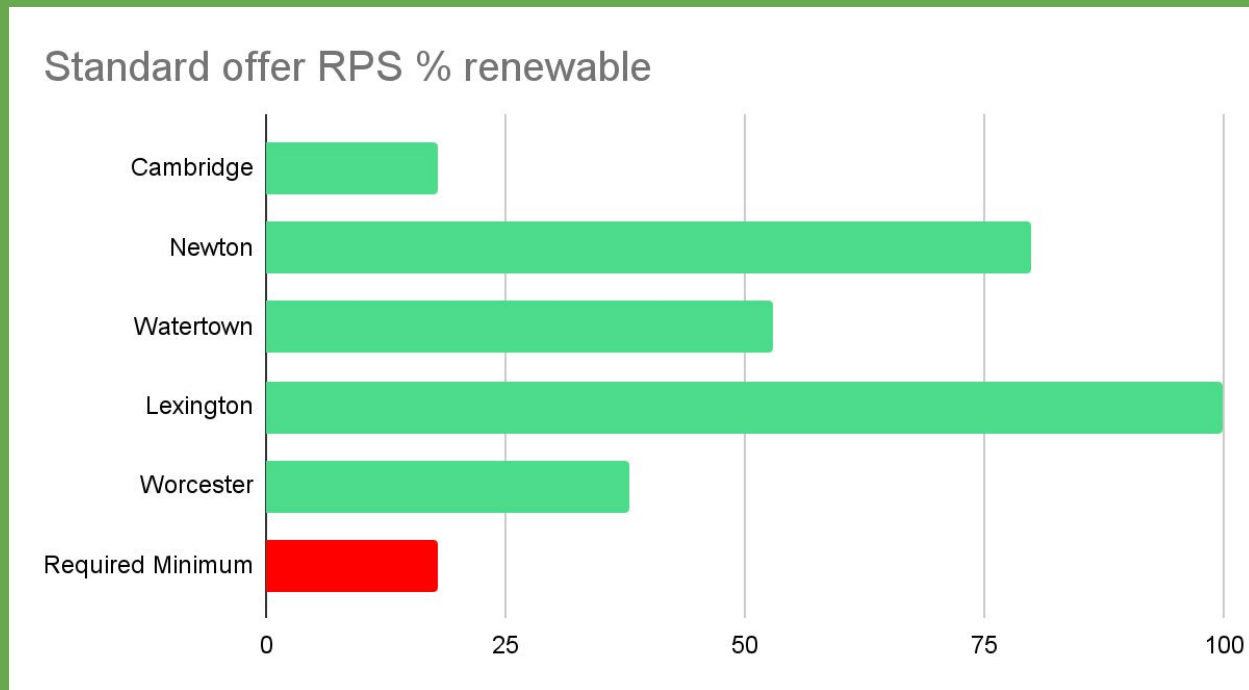


Past goals

Our Data & Goals



Change: Climate work should be vetted by community and Council : Aggregation plan a missed opportunity



Cambridge standard
EQUALS the state while
other cities far surpass
in RPS

Even if RECs are not
guaranteed to produce
solar, the Cambridge
add is minimal (2.5%
equivalent of
renewable). And the
more RECs the more
pressure to build
renewables.

Example of success: City solar & Waste

When the goals are clear, plan is implemented, result can be achieved. The city stormwater management, solar capacity and waste reduction have been successful to date.

Now we need all players to step up and meet the goals.



Climate work to date: Overview

- City has done incredible amount of work - planning, reports, studies
- Starting to have more action oriented plans:
 - NZAP - not only the 5 year review - there is an extensive list of actions to take in the Draft plan
 - CPAC recommendations
 - CRZTF report
 - Zero Waste plan for the city
 - EV policy and plan

The CCWG will BUILD on this work, accelerate timelines and add any relevant actionable items that will move the needle.

Climate work to date: NZAP sample chart

Net Zero Task Force Priorities by Action

Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan

Date: May 27, 2021

Adjusted Actions Ratings by Various Metrics of Interest

Action number	Type	Action	**GHG Impacts Rating	**Resilience Rating	**Other Co-benefits Rating	Summed Benefits Ratings	*Avg Score (Consider.it Poll)	***Equity Rating	TF Adjusted Ranking
1.2		Action 1.2 BEUDO Requirements	3	2	2	7	80	Flagged	1
4	Enabling	Action 4 Local Carbon Fund (Aggregation 3.0)	3	3	3	9	64	Positive	2
3.3	New	Action 3.3 Off-site Renewable Energy Access	3	1	2	6	62	Flagged	3
1.4	New & Enabling	Action 1.4 Financing and Capacity Building	3	1	2	6	36	Positive	4
2.1		Action 2.1 Net Zero Requirements for New Construction	2	3	2	7	71	Flagged	5
2.5	New	Action 2.5 Embodied Carbon Management	1	2	1	4	30	Neutral	6
1.3		Action 1.3 Upgrades at Transaction Points	2	3	3	8	39	Flagged	7
1.1		Action 1.1 Custom Retrofit Program	1	3	3	7	6	Positive	8
3.1		Action 3.1 Low Carbon Energy Supply	1	3	1	5	47	Positive	9
3.2		Action 3.2 On-site Renewable Energy Access	1	3	3	7	70	Neutral	10
3.2.1	Enabling	Action 3.2.1 Rooftop Solar Requirement	1	3	3	7	49	Flagged	11
2.3		Action 2.3 Increase Green Building Requirements	1	2	3	6	33	Flagged	12

Notes:

*Avg. Score (Consider.it Poll): Average priority score given in Consider.it by TF members

**GHG Impact, Resilience and Other Co-benefits rated 1-3 with 3 having the highest positive impact, and 1 having lowest impact

***Equity ratings: Positive > Action having a positive impact, Neutral > Actions that have neither positive or negative impact, Flagged > Needs work

"N/A" indicates that that Action is enabling or supporting emissions reductions in another Action

Draft workplan for meetings: Framing A

- Broadly speaking, these are ideas for agendas of the CWG meetings:
 - Meeting #1 (today): Introductions, plan of action, discuss reports
 - Meeting #2: Idea review and generation: goal: end up with list of possible actions to take
 - Meeting #3: Energy efficiency actions: review, prioritize
 - Meeting #4: GHG emissions reduction actions: review, prioritize
 - Meeting #5: Transition actions: review, prioritize
 - Meeting #6: Summarize findings, finalize report

Draft workplan for meetings: Framing B

- Broadly speaking, these are ideas for agendas of the CWG meetings:
 - Meeting #1 (today): Introductions, plan of action, discuss reports
 - Meeting #2: Idea review and generation: goal: end up with list of actions to take, focus on small ideas
 - Meeting #3: Large impact ideas, focus on building sector
 - Meeting #4: Large impact ideas outside of buildings
 - Meeting #5: Consolidate report and recommendations
 - Meeting #6: Summarize findings, finalize report

Why will/how can the CCWG have impact?

- Covid response showed what an emergency response entails
 - Funding, programs, policies, actions all transformed in a few months
- State passed Climate Roadmap => to be a true climate leader and regain our position, Cambridge MUST do more
- In NZAP next steps the city has included for the first time ever a clearer call for prioritization, based on assessment of impact on GHG emissions and equity lens
- The world is literally on fire and/or drowning and the costs of the climate crisis are impossible to deny or ignore.

Getting Stuff Done in Cambridge

- Cambridge has a strong city manager form of government - the City Manager (hired by the City Council), is the CEO of the city and has equivalent power to Mayors in other cities
- The City Council main power related to climate: Passes ordinances (laws)
- Community pressure affects both the CM and CC
 - Example: CCWG, residents, groups

Plan to categorize ideas:



Discussion:

- Feedback on framing for next meetings: by theme [Energy Efficiency, GHG Emissions, Transition] or not?
- Resources for the CCWG to tap into - we've put out the word to city's groups [CPAC, CRZTF, NZAP] and to some community groups [Green Cambridge, 350MA]
- How best can we leverage YOUR area of expertise and include in our work?

Next steps/wrap up:

- Next meeting Sept. 15 5-6:30 pm*
- Homework
- Set dates for future meetings
- THANK YOU!!!!

** Yom Kippor starts at sundown at 7 pm so we will end before then*